



CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PAT Meeting

Monday, November 07, 2005, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Smith Tower, 500 2nd Avenue

NOTES

Present

Present: Cindy Bogar, Robin??, Neil Lukas, Tamara Menteer, Bud Parker, Bob Peth, Jordan Royer, Francisco Tello, Nick Wells (PSCA)

Staff and Consultants: Cheryl Fraser (Chair), David Goldberg, Victoria Schoenberg, Jerry Ernst, Theresa Nalon, Jerry Ernst

Other: Kate Martin

Public Comment

Summary of Last Meeting, *Cheryl Fraser*

Park Programming Questionnaire, *David Goldberg*

- Responses to date
- Responding to Responses

County / City Meeting on Park Partnership

- Shared objectives
- Ideas for short term improvements

Schematic Concepts, *Nakano and Ernst*

Superintendent Bounds reviewed the options on the previous Friday and requested that David pose some questions for the PAT to consider.

- Should the design look to a stronger relationship between the park and Courthouse?
- He urged the PAT to define the vision rather than be limited by the perceived constraints.
- He asked if there was an option that had a very strong visual presence like Trafalgar Square (incorporating a large fountain or garden).

Should there be a concession element in options?

- Adjacent to a children's play area?
- At intersection of 3rd and Yesler?
- Should it incorporate covered seating

Restrooms?

- Should the design incorporate restrooms?

Existing Design?

- Can it work?
- What elements should be preserved or removed?

General Comments

- Courthouse loading dock probably isn't going away. Some of the concepts present options for future connections but don't make the loading dock the focus since it is a functional element.

- The loading dock area can mix delivery vehicles and pedestrians. There are ways to play down loading dock through screening or minor improvements. The building alcove is really the focus and the view of the architecture could be enhanced.
- Metro tunnels still creates an east/west desire line along Jefferson St that will need to be accommodated.
- A paving mosaic would be great to reinforce crosswalks at Third and Yesler.
- Many people use alley because they're afraid to walk through the park.
- The Historic Precedent provides Seattle Police Department opportunities to get into the park easily and to observe activities the park. The paths also draw people into the park.
- Need good lighting on the pathways
- None of the options really unite the Courthouse and park. We don't want to establish barrier as shown in Pioneer Connection and Historic Reference options.
- Need to include something that draws people into the park such as a fountain, sculpture of significant plantings.
- Smith Tower works to bring tourists to Tower and it's a major draw for the District. There needs to be a clear line of sight from the park to the tower.
- Something tall the is visible from Fortson Square would draw people to
- Can the bus tunnel entrance be re-oriented? Maybe there is a way to look at integrating station entrance with Morrison Hotel building.
- This is a place for variety. Don't lump the legal activities (of homeless people) with illegal activity.
- Consider table and facilities for food service that could serve the whole community.
- The building on Yesler with a deck that overlooks the south end of the park is great idea, reprogram back of courthouse.
- The path should be more oriented to their function; maybe they're curvy.
- Need arborist for trees

Summary

- Scheme Diagonal organization works visually and for circulation. (More preference for diagonal concept, but some strong support for formal concept)
- Create a bold entrance at Third and Yesler Way.
- Include a strong visual focal element
- Close Dilling Way
- Building idea on south triangle is good.
- Integrate park and south Courthouse façade.
- Enhance east / west movement next to courthouse

Next Steps

- Parks is working with Council Member Rasmussen to schedule a Property Owners Meeting
- Nakano will refine the concepts into two Schematic Options
- Landmarks/Design Commission Briefing